

## The Luna Falls or Bridal Veil Falls: A Falls By Either Name...

Modern writers, for example Pierre Berton, as of 1992, would call the small falls to the south of the American Falls either Luna or Bridal Veil Falls. This falls is also known as Iris Falls; it is comical how the smallest of the three water fall has the most names. The name Bridal Veil is now more prominent than Luna or Iris.

The name Luna Falls refers to the reflection of the mist when the light from a full-moon would shine on the mist. Many tourists, including newly-weds, came to view this phenomenon; which was particularly stunning on the island that separates the American Falls from the smaller falls. The name of the island thus became known as Luna Island. The waterfall next to the island became known as Luna Falls; Luna referring to moon. This moon-lit rainbow became less prominent with the advent of industrialization, electricity and illumination on both sides of the border, about 1860 or so. Just as the stars are now invisible when in a cityscape, so too the lunar-rays on the mist are now invisible.

The name Bridal Veil Falls comes from the shape of this water-fall and the environment of Niagara. It is thinner when compared to the other falls that make up the falls of Niagara. The thin sheet of water of this waterfall, which looks like a bridal veil, combined with the romanticism of the area and the traditions led to the adoption of the new moniker, Bridal Veil. This title for the waterfall is used to denote other waterfalls through-out the world rather than just the one in Niagara.

The absence of the lunar-rays effect on the mist of Niagara during the time of industrialization in the area led to the adoption of the more commonly used Bridal Veil Falls in opposition to the Luna Falls. Either term can be used correctly to refer to the same waterfall.